

CITY OF AUGUSTA

CITY CENTER  
16 CONY STREET  
AUGUSTA, ME 04330

HOURS OF OPERATION  
7:45 A.M.—4:30 P.M.

City Center will be closed  
on the following dates:

Monday, February 20  
Monday, March 19  
Monday, April 16  
Monday, May 28  
Wednesday, July 4  
Monday, September 3  
Monday, October 8  
Monday, November 12  
Thursday, November 22  
Tuesday, December 25



Meet Daniel Emery, recently elected to the Augusta City Council as a Councilor, At-Large

Dan can be contacted at [daniel.emery@augustamaine.gov](mailto:daniel.emery@augustamaine.gov)

The last three months have given me an opportunity to get to know and appreciate the city of Augusta on an entirely new and different level. I feel very fortunate to live, work and volunteer in a community that means so much to so many. We have a beautiful city with great potential and a tremendous number of opportunities. The continuing revitalization of Downtown, the Lithgow Library expansion, a new hospital and a new courthouse and dozens of other initiatives prove that even in tough economic times we have the talent and resources to get things done. There is no doubt that we will face a few challenges this year, but with the leadership and dedication of our council, city management, city staff and the citizens of Augusta we will succeed. As we move through 2012 I urge you to reach out and get involved. Whether you serve on a committee or board, volunteer with a community group or program, become a mentor for a young person, or offer ideas and solutions on how to make our hometown of Augusta a better place for everyone, your effort will make all the difference. We can, and will achieve great things, and our collaboration is the key to success. I look forward to working with you. Have a wonderful and satisfying 2012.

City of Augusta, Maine		
Bureaus/Departments	Phone	Fax
Airport.....	626-2306	626-2309
Assessing.....	626-2320	626-2304
Auditing .....	626-2340	620-8161
Bicentennial Nature Park (summer).....	626-7010	
City Manager’s Office .....	626-2300	620-8174
City Services Administration .....	626-2365	626-2520
Clerk’s Office.....	626-2310	620-8127
Civic Center Administration.....	626-2405	626-5968
Civic Center Box Office .....	626-2400	626-5968
Childcare.....	626-2350	620-8800
Codes.....	626-2368	626-2520
Community Services.....	626-2305	626-2354
Development Services .....	626-2336	626-2338
Economic Development .....	626-2336	626-2338
Engineering .....	626-2365	626-2520
Facilities & Systems .....	626-2365	626-2520
Finance/ Administration .....	626-2300	620-8174
Fire Department.....	626-2421	626-2424
Fort Western .....	626-2440	626-2440
Health & Welfare .....	626-2325	620-8153
Health Director .....	620-8107	620-8174
Housing Authority.....	626-2357	626-2359
Human Resources .....	626-2353	620-8174
Information Systems .....	626-2345	626-2304
Lithgow Library.....	626-2415	626-2419
Planning .....	626-2366	626-2520
Parking District (fax-call first).....	626-2362	626-2362
Parks/Cemeteries/Trees .....	626-2352	626-2354
Police Department.....	626-2370	623-2512
Public Works.....	626-2435	626-2437
Recreation.....	626-2350	620-8800
School Department.....	626-2468	626-2444
Solid Waste.....	626-2435	626-2437

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Mayor’s Notes

Happy New Year to all of my fellow citizens of Augusta!  
There are a number of issues I want to address in this first newsletter of 2012

**THE BUDGET**

The year 2012 figures to be a challenging one for the City as we, once again, deal with shrinking or stagnant revenues on the one hand, and rising and unavoidable expenses on the other. If you have been watching what has been happening at the State House, you know that the Governor and the Legislature are currently grappling with a projected \$220 million dollar shortfall in the DHHS budget. As I write this, it is not clear how this budget crisis will be resolved. But one thing does seem reasonably clear, namely, that the cities and towns of Maine will not be seeing any increase in state funding, and will likely see less. At the same time, funds that had been channeled to municipalities by the federal government, are drying up as well. The ability of the city to raise revenue is rather limited, consisting primarily of the excise tax on motor vehicles and property taxes. As the Mayor and Council begin the budget review process in the next few months, we will be faced with trying to maintain those services you have come to expect, while minimizing any tax increase. I have now served in city government, either on the School Board or on the City Council, and now as Mayor, for 11 years. In that time, I have heard from countless members of our community that they appreciate the full range of services the City of Augusta provides, and they want those services to continue. The budget review process will begin in earnest in April. I strongly urge all of my fellow citizens to help me, the members of the City Council, as well as City Manager Bill Bridgeo and his talented administration, to better understand how you want us to spend your money. We need that help now more than ever, given the fiscal restraints we are now confronting.

**NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS**

I have been delighted to begin working with the two newest members of the Augusta City Council. Dan Emery is an At-Large Councilor filling my unexpired term, and Jeff Bilodeau is an At-Large Councilor serving a full three year term after Councilor Ed Coffin chose not run for re-election. Both Dan and Jeff bring a youthful energy to the Council and I look forward to the valuable contributions they will bring to our deliberations.

**GOAL SETTING SESSION**

On Saturday, January 21, 2012, the Council and I participated in a day-long goal setting discussion at the Augusta Civic Center. Also participating were the City Manager, the Assistant City Manager Ralph St. Pierre, as well as the department heads. We received the able assistance of Frank O’Hara who acted as facilitator. By all accounts, the day was a resounding success. The ideas flew fast and furious. I was once again struck by how fortunate we are to live in Augusta and to have such dedicated city councilors and such talented city employees. On Monday, January 23, 2012, I met with City Manager Bill Bridgeo and Mr. O’Hara to review the goal-setting session and to plan how we will follow through. A council meeting dedicated to that follow through is scheduled for February 6, 2012, beginning at 6:30 pm.

**KENNEBEC TECHNOLOGIES**

On January 9, 2012, I was pleased to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Kennebec Technologies for the opening of a 4000 square foot expansion. Governor LePage and the members of our legislative delegation also attended. For those of you who are not familiar with Kennebec Technologies, it is a jewel of a business, right here in Augusta on Church Hill Road, specializing in the manufacture of precision parts for use all over the planet. Led by Wick Johnson, it is an excellent example of the type of business employing highly skilled technicians, that is competing on a global scale. Thank you Wick and Kennebec Technologies for choosing Augusta.



We welcome your comments and ideas!  
Mayor Stokes can be contacted through the City Manager’s Office at 626-2300 or by emailing at [wrsded@gwi.net](mailto:wrsded@gwi.net)



As Mayor Stokes references in his article, he and the City Council held a very productive day long goal-setting session with me and members of the senior administrative team. All nine of your elected municipal leaders (as well as your School Board Chair and Superintendent and the Chair and General Manager of your utilities district) gave up a Saturday to plan and

## City Manager's Message...

prioritize for the City for the year to come. For my part, I tried to provide the Council with an overview of the key issues and challenges facing our City at this time. As reinforced by what my department heads presented, my most urgent concern has to do with what looks like a very difficult financial picture for the coming fiscal year (July 2012 to June 2013). All indicators point to a reduction in non-property tax revenues (the State of Maine alone supplies about 37% of the City's \$50 million City/School budget) of a magnitude that will make our spring budget process as tough (or worse) than any I've addressed in my fourteen years in this job. One thing that came up quite a lot that Saturday was the need to ratchet up our frequency and methods of communicating with you, our constituents and customers. That is something that we can accomplish without necessarily overtaxing our financial resources. All of us – elected officials and City staff – are committed to improving the flow of information to you, through traditional media sources like this newsletter and with more creative vehicles (like Facebook and Twitter) as well. I also think its time to conduct a statistically valid resident survey (the last time we did one was for the 2007 Comprehensive Master Plan) and we'll hope to get that out by late spring.

We've had something of an odd winter so far this year. It began with a freak October snowstorm and in the interim we've seen some nasty ice conditions and a January storm that dropped six inches of snow in just a couple of hours (just before the morning commute began). Our Public Works Department is doing its best within the budgetary constraints placed upon them but we appreciate that sometimes that can seem insufficient. Please know that those folks are passionate and dedicated to doing a first class job and in my opinion are about as good a crew as can be found anywhere. Another item of interest that came out of the Council goal-setting session was School Superintendent Connie Brown's report on recent benchmarks in achievement in our school system. I've asked Dr. Brown to add a piece to this newsletter so you can share that good news as well. Please keep in mind the great winter recreational resources we enjoy here in Augusta, including the new Bond Brook area where the snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing opportunities are terrific (go to the City's website at [www.augustamaine.gov](http://www.augustamaine.gov) for more information). *Bill Bridgeo can be contacted at [william.bridgeo@augustamaine.gov](mailto:william.bridgeo@augustamaine.gov) or at 626-2300.*

**The City's Newsletter is designed...  
to better inform the community  
about the City's services, programs,  
activities and opportunities for participation.**

## AUGUSTA SCHOOL DEPARTMENT SHARES SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, GRADUATION RATES AND ELEMENTARY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Augusta Public Schools improved the student achievement at the elementary and secondary levels during 2010-11. Notably, at Cony High School, the dropout rate for the class of 2011 was reduced to 3.25% from the prior year of 7.45%. The dropout rate is different from the graduation rate, which also improved. The graduation rate for Cony High School, which is the four year, on time graduation for students improved from 71 to 81%. Student acceptance to post-secondary education also improved with 80% of the class of 2011 accepted to a two or four year college. This is a trend that continues upward. Approximately a decade ago, only 50% of students were accepted at a post-secondary institution.

Student achievement at the elementary level also was improved. Hussey Elementary School with its student literacy performance at nearly 90% was one of the top performing schools in the State of Maine. Notably, elementary achievement also improved significantly. A decade ago, elementary literacy was in the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile as compared to what it is now, in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile.



## Jeffrey Bilodeau, Councilor, At-Large

As a City Councilor, my goal is very simple: to work with others in supporting both the residents and the businesses of our community and set the conditions that allow for growth and balance. I am a lifelong resident of Augusta. I am a Cony Graduate, "Class of 86". My wife Sara and I have been married for 23 years and we have two wonderful children. I began my military career in 1987 when I enlisted in the U S Air Force. It was in the service that I met Sara who is a native of Nebraska. At the completion of our active duty tour, Sara and I returned to Maine, enrolled in college, started a career, and began to raise a family. I joined the Maine Army National Guard in 1994 and am today, the Deputy Operations Officer for Mobilization and Readiness at Camp Keyes.

I answered our country's call and deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan shortly after 9/11. I deployed as the Commander of the 120th Tactical Air Traffic Service Company. I have served the people of Maine and our county in many leadership positions throughout my career. I have real, on the job experience as a national policy maker, facilitator and leader. I was the Army National Guard's Chair for Mobilization and Readiness in Washington D.C. from 2008-2011. As the Chair, I developed policies and procedures concerning mobilization and readiness for our 358,000 Army National Guard Soldiers and their families stationed throughout the United States. I have led soldiers during very challenging times. Now, I want to put the leadership skills that I have learned to use for the City of Augusta. I am excited and look forward to my term as Councilor At-Large.

If you would like to contact Councilor Bilodeau, please email him at [jeffrey.bilodeau@augustamaine.gov](mailto:jeffrey.bilodeau@augustamaine.gov)

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